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Letters to and from Hazel Todd (1927)

Hazel Todd

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Feb. 26, 1929



ON BOARD

S.S. Taiyo MARU

Feb. 26 1929.

Dear Mother:-

This is the third day it has been rough enough to have racks on the table. When the sea is like this we do not get very much done. One can not even read too much. The deck is too wet to walk around much.

Feb. 28. It is a little smoother today but we are one day late because of having been slowed up by the weather. I have on two coats while here on deck and have my steamer rug around me and even then am none too warm. We are running into winter.

We had a good day at Honolulu. In the morning a group of five of us went out for a drive. Between us we had to pay eight dollars for the trip. Of course divided among us that was not so much. We went to some fields where pineapples grow, saw some of the parks and other pretty places around there went up to Pali Pass and to the aquarium. Some of the places I had been to before but was glad to go again. I went out to see Mrs. Baker in the afternoon but as our boat

had bad weather since then. One missionary who got on at Honolulu has only been able to come to morning prayers once. I am glad he gets off at the next stop.

Our nice salt water baths we get every night are just fine. The boy fills up the tub all it will hold every time. We manage to keep clean abright. We will miss such a luxury in China.

This pen begins to act a little bit like the other. I suppose you found it abright. It was so foolish of me to forget it. If you ever think of it let Mr. Roberts or Mr. Mitchell see that book about the mission. And if there is ever any way to send that straw suit case back to the Canfields' it might be a good idea to do so as some one else may find it useful or else send the leather bag of mine. You might want to know their address sometime for other reasons. It is 235 South Avenue 51.

Even though my baggage is heavy it is not likely I will have to pay more than about ten dollars for excess baggage. Rates for excess on a boat are not high and to send that amount of the excess separately some other time might cost

sailed at four o'clock I could not stay long. One always wants to allow plenty of time to catch a boat. One of the attractions of Honolulu to some is the divers. Some of them went to the very top of the boat to dive down after money. They would not dive that far for less than fifty cents. There are always a lot who sell curios around where we land. At Honolulu they seem to specialize in the garlands of flowers or paper to hang around people's necks. They play something for the boats when they leave too.

Mrs. Knight and I read some Chinese nearly every day. We have gone over nearly forty pages. There is only day we did not do it on account of the weather. We were not sea sick but we were more comfortable doing nothing. This also makes my seventeenth letter since coming onto the boat. Of course there is plenty to read too. We find plenty to keep us occupied. So far it has come my turn to lead morning prayers twice. Often because we all have plenty of time that last quite a while. Unfortunately we had no Sunday this week because that was the day the captain chose to ship. Perhaps that is one reason we have

three or four times as much. But customs are high and likely to go higher. So I will have to guard against having too much sent from America or such places. Living expenses are likely to be higher too from now on.

By the time you get this letter no doubt I will be somewhere in China. You probably would have it though before I reach Hunan even if that is the place I am to go.

Mon. 2. We are running into Yokohama today over twenty-four hours late. The storm we ran into was not especially severe but lasted a long time. This will have to do for this time. But I will try to write again as soon as we reach Shanghai.

With love,
Hazel Todd

Feb. 26, 1929



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
N. S. A.

February
1929

March 8, 1929

ON BOARD



S.S. Taiyo MARU

Mar. 8 1929.

Dear Mother:-

I am starting this letter on the boat but there may not be opportunity to finish it before reaching Shanghai. There will be a lot to do when we get there. So there will be no hope of getting away from Shanghai before Sunday. Perhaps it will take until the middle of next week. For one thing I ought not to have many letters to write having written about twenty letters on the boat. We have also studied about sixty pages of Chinese. Mrs. Knight is a very good student of Chinese so we have had a fine time studying together. In the ports too she knows the way around much better than I do.

Yesterday it was nice weather all day. In the morning we started right out after breakfast and went to the post office first. Next we went to the foot of a hill where there were some waterfalls. One of them was fairly easy climbing up to. The other was ten or more minutes of climbing up stairs. Mrs. Knight went with me up to the lower falls but because our time was limited she was contented to sit down and wait while I went to the top and back again. When I

latter in Changteh so I can not go back to Nanchow. And they will not let me live in an out-station without some one ~~who~~ with me. There is a Miss Williamson who came to China last fall who is to work with me. It depends a great deal on where she feels lead to go where they will send me. This much is settled it means I have to keep house. I have been buying some ~~more~~ things for a house a lamp, a rug, and few ^{other} things for a house including some things to eat. I also bought a straw hat with a brim and an overnight case, also a few phonograph records. My rug is a real Pekingese one 30" x 56" in and cost three dollars second hand. Today we bought a lot of Chinese posters and tracts to use in the work. I have to buy still more tracts and a few more things probably to set the table.

Mrs. Driffin arrived in Shanghai a few days before I did. But we are both delayed in going on. She must wait for the young men as they can not travel alone. I dislike losing this time for the work but it can not be helped.

When I first arrived here they were holding council meeting. They decided during it to send out an appeal for prayer for at least two hundred young people to come to China during the next two years especially of those physically and temporarily fitted for work in the outlying

got to the bottom of the hill we met a number who came off a sight seeing boat which is going around the world. Some of them would not even make the effort to go to see the lower falls. To think of people spending money just to see things and then not see them just because they do not want to put forth a little effort. We could not stay long because our boat was to sail at noon. While up there we bought some cards and some models of Japanese shoes. If you want to know about our stay at Yokohama you can consult my letter to Alice. Yesterday afternoon we went through the Inland Sea. It looks like there were mountains on both sides of us which stick right up out of the water. Where the slopes are least bit gradual they are terraced. One is always impressed by the way the land of Japan is utilized. The first time I saw Japan everything seemed so green. This time it looked like California would in the summer. We were just a little early for fruit tree blossoms.

We keep wondering who will meet us at Shanghai.

This letter has been laid aside for more than a week until I should know where I am going. It will either be Chienyangkuang, Anhwei or Shikahow, Hopei. The latter is an out station from Nanchow where I was before. They intend to send two young men to Nanchow to work

districts of China. The mission has sent out such
appeals in the past in did not fail to get what
they asked for.

Alice's letter came yesterday and I will try to
answer it soon. I am sending her birthday
present in a day or two.

It is good to be this far back and I can
hardly wait to go on. Alice said you had your
bed room painted, did you do it yourself? There
other young woman in my room came to
China first the same year I did. Her name is
Toddman. Our Chinese names are the same.

This must go to the post office.

With love,

Hazel Todd

March 8, 1929

March 29



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

March 22, 1929

Shanghai, China. Mar. 22, 1929.

Dear Winifred:-

It is almost impossible to find any real Chinese music for you as you asked me to do so you will have to be content without the regular sheet music. But I will get some of the scales and you can build up on it if you want to.

I am sending a couple of posters you can put up in the Church somewhere at the time of the C. C. convention if they get there in time. One has the characters with the words from Matt. 28:20 and also Matt. 9:38. The one of the children has them dressed in the colors that represent the stripes of the flag of the Republic of China used from 1911 to 1928. The yellow is for China proper, blue Tibet, and the others represent other outlying dependencies. The verse at the bottom shows that if He is lifted up He will draw all men unto Him. You will notice in both posters the Lord is represented as having Chinese features. On the whole they are not beautiful posters but I want some people to have a chance to see them. So have them hung up in the church for a while.

It has been good weather here since I came most of the time being bright but colder than January there. We do not have to wear so much as when we first came on the last half of the time on the way. (On the way across there was a woman nearly as old as Mother who had the same ideas about wearing clothes. In Japan it was "too cold" for her to get off and see things "too cold" to sit a while on deck and "too cold" for anything but sit in her cabin. At the end of the trip here she looked like she was drawn through a knot hole. For ^{that} kind of cold we have here we simply have to dress for it). Houses in Japan and China are not heated and they put on layer upon layer of clothes.

One evening a group of six of us went to have a Japanese meal. It was ordered ahead of time. But it seems they cook the food after the guests arrive. In the center of the ~~center~~ of the table there was a gas jet. At each place were two bowls and the pair of chop sticks. The food was prepared ready to cook. In one large heaped up plate was Chinese cabbage with several slices of onion in it and chicken sliced very thin. The other

plate was just the same only it had beef instead chicken. The Japanese cook began by trying out the chicken fat. Then she put the chicken vegetable together gradually into the pan. She used shiang-ju on it too which contains the salt. When this was all cooked the rice was brought in. We were supposed to have rice in one bowl. The other bowl we supposed to break a fresh raw egg into, then beat the egg. Into the egg we ^{were} supposed to put our share of the stew ~~from~~ the kettle. The vegetables were then eaten with the rice. As soon as the stew containing the chicken was off the stove that containing the beef was put on. The cabbage had enough water so none had to be added. Perhaps you can try one of these things sometimes. Each person you see has two bowls about the size of an oat meal dish and chop sticks. All the beef being lean so if there is no other oil something has to be put in. To top off the meal we had tea unspiced by sugar cream or anything else.

Mother and I confess I too was afraid of paying excess baggage on my things. It seems the Japanese companies measure instead of weighing things. They did not charge anything extra. But when I got here they made me pay a sum equal to about \$2.50 for duty. You see it could have been worse. I only had to unlock my suit case.

Since my last letter I have not bought many things except what we can eat. But I did buy a lamp, a bread tin and a pie tin. Before finishing buying things I hope to have a chance to talk things over with my fellow worker.

(My next letter will no doubt be written to Alice as she is the only one I have heard from so far.) I am hoping in a few days to know whether I am going to Cheryanghwan, Andohai or Shikshou, Hopin. The former place would have been where it would be if I were not somewhat inclined to wish to return to Hunan.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

March 22, 1929



Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Answered
April 18.

March 22
1929

Nanchow
May 16, 1929
May 16,

Nanchow

Dear Mother:-

It is so long since I have written home you will be wondering possibly what has become of me. We have been back here five days all full of renewing old acquaintances. The people seem more friendly than ever before and there are many opportunities of speaking to the women and children who flock about. The christians especially seem glad to see us. And they are very sympathetic with us. In fact they seem to make more over our losses than we do. The bond that exists between us is very real. And I think we have been drawn closer than ever before. Today a great many government students have been on the compound to look around. Their minds have been badly poisoned through much of the teaching they have received. So they were not so friendly but I have tried to give each a tract as they went away. We also tried to teach them some choruses. The thing they are all the most interested in is the phonograph. There is no need to tell people to be quiet while that is going.

Of course the house is terribly dirty. So far I have used eight buckets of water to mop the floor of my room and it is still far from being clean. There are

other rooms in the house that need mopping so it will have to be let go a few days.

What I ought to do is to get away to an outstation. There is not much time to do it before it becomes too hot to go. It has not yet been decided about our going away this summer. We got back here so late that if it were not for the youngest Draffin child we would surely stay here.

It was more than three weeks from the time we reached Hankow until we left. When the Japanese boat we traveled on stopped at a small place about seventy miles away from here. We left Hankow early Sunday afternoon. About all our things were put onto the boat on Saturday. We reached the place where we changed early Wednesday morning. It took about three hours for Mr Draffin to talk prices about getting two boats to take us and our baggage. The men on the boat wanted \$3.50 to help get our things off the boat. When Mr. Draffin had reached \$2.50 he refused to go further. So he and another man got things off the boat themselves much to the surprise of the boat men. Between us we had well over a ton of stuff. We had to pay about two fares a piece on that account. So they did not lose on carrying us. It was about eleven o'clock Wednesday when we started away on

the native boats. That day we went a little over ten miles. Thursday morning they went only two miles. Friday they sat tight all day waiting for a favorable wind. Mr. Draffin and I got on shore and preached to the women and gave out tracts. Friday evening the children came around the boat so we started to teach them to sing a hymn. Then we sang other songs until a crowd gathered. I talked until my throat gave out. Then Mr. Draffin talked to them about an hour. Saturday morning long before five one of the men noticed we had a favorable wind so it did not take them long to pull up the anchors, put up the sails and get away. We went under sail all day making sixty miles to get here by five in the afternoon. We were thankful it was not latter. We started at once to sweep the house. A boy of about ten came and helped me out of the goodness of his heart. Among the christians who came down to the boat to meet us was the old man who helped me the last week I was in the country. He is now nearly eighty. He is the one who at seventy had a stroke. Then he made a vow if the Lord would give him another ten years he would spend it preaching.

The evangelist who came to meet us brought with him the grandson of the man who did so much for the Traffins when they left. The other evangelist had a baby daughter born the day before so it was not so convenient for him to leave.

Did I ever tell you that in the fire that nearly destroyed Nanchow the house of that old man who did so much for us was spared. So if his family have changed in their attitude toward us it is to become more friendly still. He feels he has had more than sufficient reward.

There are other letters to be written and there is so much to be done these days this letter must stop. Please continue send my mail to China Inland Mission, 9 Woosung Road Shanghai, China.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

May 16, 1929

外

國

May 29
Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.



ne 13, 1929
June 13, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan, China, June 13, 1929.

Dear Winifred:-

I started a letter to you last week but it seems to have disappeared so a fresh start must be made. We find it too hot to do a great deal these days or rather too muggy. You have lots of hotter weather there. Today it is raining a little and there is scarcely a breath of air stirring. It was not hot enough to keep me from sleeping but Mrs. Draffin is more like Mother and she could not sleep. It seems just as hot at night as during the day.

Day before yesterday was the fifth day of the fifth Chinese month which is their holiday. They hang green bows in front of the houses in honor of the occasion and go through many of their idolatrous customs. As far as possible they have feasts and new clothes. One special dish of the season is the steamed glutinous rice done up in leaves to certain cone like shape. They think everyone who does not eat one of these on that holiday is sure to become ill. Some one always sees to it that we are supplied with some of these to eat. They are not bad to eat with syrup or something else to give them a taste. Glutinous rice after being cooked is more like tapioca than like ordinary rice. The evangelist here thought we ought to take advantage of the holiday. The shops were closed and yet many people came in from the country. He wanted the church members to help him hold an evangelistic meeting in the afternoon. But when the time came to open the meeting only one old church member was about. However they opened the chapel and I took my phonograph out and set it going. It only took fifteen or twenty minutes to gather a crowd. Nearly two hundred were here at some time or other during the hour and a half while the meeting was going on and some staid clear through. People listened very well too. We are hoping next time the church members will enter more heartily into inviting the people in and also looking after people after they come. The phonograph often does good service in getting a group together when the workers want to sell books or preach. As it was most of the seats were filled the other day but we should have twice the number of seats. Nearly half of the seats we did have disappeared during the time we were away. And

very few of those that are left have backs. You would think the chapel looks more like a barn than anything else and yet the people here think it is a very good building. The walls ought to be white washed and there should be some repairs on the partitions not to speak of the pulpit and benches. The floor is cement and is in a fair condition. The ceiling is really the best looking thing about it. The roof is sheet iron so it is boarded up inside to cover the iron. The boards were planed and latter oiled. The oil was a good grade so it looks like varnish.

Lately I have been getting out a little more. The women wherever I go seem friendly. They seem very willing to say they will come to meetings. Some of them do come too. The Bible woman often goes out with me now while her husband stays with the children. But when we come in at the end of two hours we always find her baby is howling. Her older baby is none too happy about her going out.

They are getting on with the furniture. My desk has been stained since the new drawers were put in. It is costing about as much to get repaired as it cost when it was new. Of course it takes quite a lot of work and lumber to make the six drawers and put in a new back. They will soon begin work on a new dresser. Mr. Draffin had dining room chairs made before I came back. Just now they are making the dining room table. The sitting room has not yet been furnished. The table for it has been varnished and is not dry. And the chairs for the sitting room we are using in the dining room until the chairs are dry. The wicker chairs for the sitting room only cost about a dollar, fifty.

We may be going away to the hills in two weeks or more. I dread going because of the trip, and so often there is something to prevent us coming back on time.

Last week we had a boy come here with an abscess just below the eye lashes of the lower lid. He was only here twice after it opened. But he did not come back again so we do not know how well it is healed. The young woman who came to us with the ear canal swollen shut was a more discouraging case. She had just had an abscess in the other ear. The hearing in her ear she came to us about is not impaired. The treatment we used was to syringe out the canal with saline and put in hot oil. She says what we did helped her ear but we are not

entirely satisfied. If we had a better speculum and more skill we might have saved her a lot of pain.

We may go away at the end of the month. I am not sure whether we will go to Kuling or Kikungshan. I prefer the latter place but the rail way has been cut off to get there. We do not hear much about the fighting that is going on. The newspaper Mr. Draffin was taking was banned because they printed too much of the truth. If there were fighting on the way it would be safer to stay here.

So far only one of the out-station evangelists has been here since we came back. He said conditions were alright in that out-station. But partitions were torn down there so it would not be a good place for me to go to stay.

The first woman Mrs. Draffin hired to help in the house since we came back had to be discharged. She was fortunate in being able to find a woman who had worked for foreigners before. Mrs. Draffin has the same cook she had before going home on furlough. He has cooked for foreigners or Chinese about all the time the last dozen years and so is a pretty good cook. He cooked a feast a few days ago and he fixed a lot of good things to eat.

This has rambled on quite long enough. I suppose you will be getting ready to go to Lake Sequisia by the time you get this letter.

With love,
Hazel Todd.

June 13, 1929



June 13, 1929

Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A

July 4, 1929

Kuling, Kiangsi, July 4, 1929.

Dear Mother:-

We had hoped it would not be necessary to come away this summer. But here we are. Just as soon as we got back to Nanchow Mrs. Draffin began to complain about the heat and to say Keith could not stand it to stay there during the summer. She minds the heat more because she is too stout and also because she does not know what heat is. I admit though there were a number of nights I slept without a sheet over me.

Mrs. Draffin and Mr. Mason both had varnish poisoning during June from a kind of Chinese oil put in the varnish. Mr. Mason said the Unguentine worked the best on it but Mrs. Draffin says nothing really helped much. It made their arms especially swell like poison oak would. Mr. Draffin and Keith each had a touch of dysentery. Keith is entirely rid of dysentery in fact he had gotten rid of it a day or two before we reached here but he is still rather pale and thin. He has a touch of rickets but it will take some one with at least a greater gift of gab than I have to convince Mrs. Draffin of it or more important still to get her to give Keith enough milk. One of Mrs. Draffin's other children also had rickets and the other boy has to have extra milk while at school now. Mr. Draffin feels the strain of several months living on Chinese food before the cook came. He only got there a few ~~months~~^{weeks} before Mr. Draffin came to meet us. Worse still was the effort of trying to keep the soldiers out of the place. That is the chief reason he did not come away for the summer. He is having ~~these~~^{these} ~~carpenters~~^{carpenters} go on making furniture and doing repair work. But he only expects to have three men on that job so they will not be so hard to look after as ten or a dozen or more.

We came by way of Changsha this time. We got on the launch at Nanchow at two o'clock in the morning although we might have known when they said they started at two it would be after three. The launch went remarkably fast so we were in Changsha by dark. We staid there nearly two days. One of the evangelists came that far with us. We staid with some

German C. I. M. workers. One of them could not make out our telegram from the code so he took it to Mrs. Keller to have her help him out. She said she would have taken us in if they had not been painting the house. She came to see us though and invited us to afternoon tea. I am trying to make arrangements to get a woman from there for a Bible woman. There is one who would like to come to us but one of the Presbyterian workers paid her way through school so they feel they are entitled to her now and rightly so. After going there for tea or rather we all had tea at the Roberts' house we went direct to the train which is not far from there. Dr. and Mrs. Keller saw us off. I knew Mrs. Roberts first at B. I. She has quite a family of little children. The oldest little boy is nearly four, the twin girls nearly two and a baby boy. She had them all dressed so cute. She is not going away this summer because it is difficult to travel with so many babies.

From Changsha we had a second class compartment on a train. It actually started on time and was only a few minutes late at Wuchang which is just across the river from Hankow. Of course because the man whose business it is to meet trains and boats was late the coolies wanted to get a lot more out of us for carrying things down to the ferry. We arrived in Hankow Saturday morning and staid there until Monday evening. It took one night by river steamer to reach Kuikiang. Then we came up here by motor to the foot of the hill and up the hill by chair. Mrs. Draffin's chair bearers made a fuss about wanting two more bearers. But the men who carried my chair as soon as they got out of sight of where I hired the chair readjusted the poles and one man went back. Of course four men had to be paid. The other three claimed the one man was sick. It was a scheme for three men to get the pay of four.

Coolie hire becomes more expensive every year. If foreigners managed things we would think a motor road to the top of this hill a necessity. Dirt and inconvenience are almost always a characteristic of anything controlled by Chinese. I noticed in many places on the way up not only advertisements but also cut into the stone the Buddhist formula for "good look". I

counted at least five of these signs but presume I may have missed some. I will pay better attention going down.

A number of workers who went up north since I met them in Shanghai are down with typhus fever. A doctor from New York state whom I met some years ago and a young woman I got acquainted with in Los Angeles last fall have died. You may possibly have heard me mention Dorothy Biddle. We were in the home together in Los Angeles for a while. Her mother came latter and spent a few nights in the home when Mr. and Mrs. Canfield were away but she spent most of the time at B. I. I also met Dorothy and went out shopping with her in Shanghai. She was quite a lot larger than I am and looked stronger. But she always seemed to have a headache, indigestion or something else the matter with her. Mrs. Canfield and I thought it was mostly the way she was brought up. In her case the typhus fever was complicated with pneumonia. Typhus fever is very rare in our part of China because the people are much more lavish in the use of water and their living habits are slightly different. Typhus is much more prevalent in the north this year than usual because of famine conditions. At best we lose some of our missionaries or associates about every year with it.

Yesterday afternoon there was a land slide caused by the heavy rains up here. One of our missionaries in coming up the hill noticed the crack in the road where the slide afterwards occurred. It destroyed a Chinese hotel. They dug out seven people five alive and two dead. It is in a very dangerous place to dig and as they can hear no more sounds they have given it up. They hardly think it worth while to risk people's lives to get out more dead bodies.

I will try not to be so long about getting around to write next time.

With love,
Hazel Todd.

July 4, 1929



July 29



Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

July 19, 1929

Kuling, Kiangsi. July 19, 1929.

Dear Mother:-

It is about time to write but here on the hill not much goes on that is worth while writing about. We have a pretty regular routine here. And one can be very lazy if they choose to be. I can always find more Chinese to study and there is any number of books one should read. Since coming up here I have read a book on psychology in English, and a book used for a reader during the eighth or ninth grade in Chinese, also one of Ralph Connor's books. I did go out once for afternoon tea but perhaps I should have spent more time getting acquainted with people. But you know books are always more interesting to me than people. Books are more instructive and do not tell the same thing over and over. Besides one has to dress up to see people and with books one can read them any time and put their whole attention on the book. In talking with folks one has to keep up part of their end of the conversation and not say anything any more dull or dumb than what other people would say. Of course this is a rather one sided argument because we are supposed to give rather than receive.

I have not yet taken any long walks up here yet. There are some beautiful ones though because we are on the hill top so we do not have to go far to look out over the edge. There is one place we can look out over the lake. Another place we can look out over the Yangtze and if there are cloud effects of course it adds much to the interest and beauty. There are a few big trees and old Chinese temples, peculiar rock formations, etc. For the most part any temples are as attractive in pictures as actually seeing them. In the pictures the dirt is not so conspicuous. And the idols do not look quite so hideous. There is a peculiar something about most idols that almost makes one shudder. And many look terrible enough indeed to be the habitation of demons. The awful bondage the people about us are in because of their fear of them no doubt has something to do with our feeling about them. I would much rather see a mouse or a snake than many idols I have seen. It is a great reminder to us of how much we have to thank for that we have never so been in bondage to gods made by men. The faces of idols

may express intense hatred or ferocity, or be very stolid but one's heart goes out to those in trouble or sorrow who has nowhere else to go with it. Much has been done in past years to improve the roads and property here at Kuling. But as the Chinese gradually get control of things the roads are not in as good repair. The lights are not used along where the foreigners live. The Chinese are buying the property up here to a great extent and probably it will not be many years before they confiscate the rest. It is interesting to see though that there is one hotel being built by Chinese for Christians of their own country. Among their rules is that against smoking, drinking, gambling and late hours. Board is to be cheaper there than in the ordinary hotels.

I have been offered some work in a hospital for a time. I would refuse it if it were not for the experience to be gained. Of course if I make anything on it that should be turned over to the mission. So really all I get out of it is experience and better food to eat. The experience may be worth something although a half day for a month is not much. It may mean my laying aside the study of Chinese for a time but that can wait. This letter has been laid aside too for a few days. There is not much that happens up here that is worth while writing about. In the hospital there is not a lot of regular work to be done. None of the patients are dangerously sick. A few have tuberculosis in an early enough stage so that there is good reason to expect they will recover. And there are others it is merely that tuberculosis is suspected. There is also a maternity case where the baby is a week old. We are not supposed to answer the bells from the rooms. The boys are expected to do that and if anything is wanted either they or the "amah" Chinese woman servant can not do they call us. We do not have anything to do with the food given to the patients. All we do is keep an eye on whether or not they eat what is set before them. Of course we have to keep track of pulse and respiration and temperature, look after giving of any medicines also we must look after the sheets, pillow cases and towels. Before I went they had such a rush those things got behind. Between times when we have nothing else to do we mend. Of course the doctor who runs the place occasionally has out patients that he needs some help in attending to. For instance today I helped hold a baby while the doctor clipped a bit of skin under the tongue. The child was tongue tied and that

July 19, 1929

July^{19,} 29

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.



be all that is necessary to keep the child from talking like he has much in his mouth all his life.

We are having a pouring down rain this morning. We are having a plenty of rain here this summer. In fact there is danger of floods. But in other places in China millions are starving because of drought. One of the last "Literary Digest's" mentions the contrast between the surplus of wheat in America and the lack of it in China. But it would take at least two months to transport it, not to mention the terrific expense. China does not have the railway and other facilities they should have to move food to famine stricken areas. In old times they used to keep grain stored as far as possible two years in advance. This was considered about the most important duty of the officials to see that this was done. But in these days of military oppression and banditry this is not done. Some of the stories of cannibalism one hears from some these areas equal any you would read about in the Old Testament. In some places fathers and mothers have to watch their little children carefully lest they be killed and eaten.

This letter has to stop because of so many other things to do. I am sorry I did not get to send anything for your birthday but I will try to send something before the summer is over.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

AUG. 12, 1929

Kuling, Kiangsi. August 12, 1929.

Dear Winifred:-

For about the last two weeks I have been looking for another letter. Of course up here away from the work in some ways I am not so busy. But an average of over six hours a day in the hospital and a little study each day takes up a fair amount of time. It is a good thing perhaps most of the patients are not very ill. One thing I find rather hard to learn is to give hypodermic injections. I am rather afraid of doing it. There is a trained nurse on duty when I am so my only reason for trying it is to learn how. Because they are all able to get out of bed there is not much besides to do except take their temperature, pulse and respiration. Most of our spare time spend in the linen room mending, marking, winding bandages, or doing odds and ends of work there. Of course once in a while we stop to help the doctor to open a boil, take an X-ray or do something of that kind. It seems to me the linen takes such a lot of time though because everything from every room must be counted before going to the wash and before being put back clean. We also examine everything as it comes from the wash to see if it needs mending. What needs mending on the sewing machine we are supposed to mend. Other things a Chinese woman does. We have nothing to do with the serving of food and only oversee the cleaning. But we find plenty to do when there are even one or two that require a lot of care. One woman came in last week who only weighed eighty-four pounds. At first she got worse rather than better so the doctor sent for her husband. She is not really through the woods yet although she has been slowly improving the last few days. There has only been one major operation while I have been there. That got on alright and the man has left the hospital. Since I started this letter the doctor sent me off one morning by myself to give a hypodermic injection. I would rather not do it.

There does not seem to be much time to go to picknicks or to meetings this summer. We did go to Nanking Pass this week. We go as far as a hill we overlook a lake and other hills beyond. The evening we went to the picnic we saw the full moon rise over the lake making a shining path of silver across it. Everything is so lovely and green after so much rain this summer. Also the sky was very clear. So we saw a combination of many delicate tints

of rose, violet, purple and blue. It was all beyond description.

We have not yet decided the day to leave the hill. The little Draffin boy needs a slight minor operation so we will have to stop in Changsha a few days because of that. I do not want to be late though in going back to our work. In normal times it might be possible for me to go from Changsha the rest of the way by myself. Mr. Draffin thinks it may be possible for him to come that far to meet us. By that time it might be alright to leave the young worker by himself for a few days for it is drawing near the end of his first year. But he is just the kind of man who gets afraid in a hard thunder shower or needs help to move a piece of furniture in his room. He is just 5 ft 1½ in. high. From every consideration he should have been a girl.

This summer while here I am trying to get Christmas presents together even Mother has not indicated what she wants so it may be far different than what she wants. And it is almost hopeless to find anything suitable for a man for birthdays or Christmas either. So most of them will be left out. For women one sees so many pretty things if one could only afford it they they could get some beautiful things. Just yesterday I went to buy an embroidered crepe de chine nightgown and slip for one of the patients. I wish I could afford to get that kind of thing for you or Mother but they cost over three dollars. A white slip would be just the thing for your graduation next spring. A very simple Georgette or other thin material would look lovely over so elaborately an embroidered slip. But it is only in the summer one has the opportunity to buy such things.

Yesterday I had another letter from you. It had been on the way about six weeks because it went up to Nanchow and then back here. I was glad you could get away on the Fourth of July. It has been so long that someone has always had to stay at home then. A letter also came from Elva. She has by means of help from the other patients read all the way through the New Testament I sent her last fall and has started to memorize some verses.

I hope it will not be so long before I find time to write again.

With love
Hazel Todd.

AUG. 12, 1929

KU 111

Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
W. S. A.,

answered

Aug 12 1929